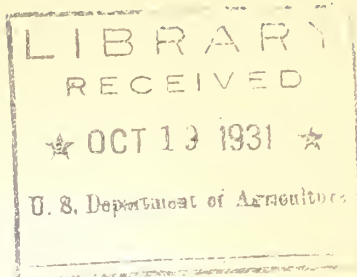


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STEM RUST AND BARBERRY NEWS

Issued by

Division of Barberry Eradication

Volume II

October 1, 1931

Number 11

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With the opening of the schools, frequent reports are being received concerning informational activities. The following statement which was recently received through Mr. Bills brings out good information concerning methods which are being successfully used by Mr. Davis in Illinois.

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

A plan was made to visit Boone County at a period three months previous to the actual work. Ogle County informational work had been carried on during the spring of 1931. It was known that many common barberry bushes would be found in this county. Forty-two boys and girls of Ogle County qualified as National Rust Busters. Boone County would be an ideal test county of the value of school informational work. It was thought that this county was practically free of common barberry bushes. In fact, the field man thought that he would not be able to find enough common barberry to show the pupils in the schools.

The plan of work included a visit to every school in the county. Before this was done, a visit was to be made to every property indicated by the Form L slips on file. It was found in actual work to be more efficient to visit many of these properties in conjunction with the regular school visits. The rural schools were to be visited first; then the town grade schools; and lastly the high schools. Other meetings would be given attention, as they developed.

A meeting of all the rural teachers was scheduled in Belvidere for September 5. This was a regular meeting called by the county superintendent of schools. The field man working in the county was fortunate enough to explain to the rural school teachers what the government plan of informational work would consist of. This proved of utmost value in saving time when the agent visited the rural schools.

When visiting the rural schools the practice was followed of being present at the first school in the morning before the regular time of assembly. Often the first talk was given before time for the school to assemble. Work was continued throughout the noon hour. Eighteen rural schools were visited during one given day.

A common barberry bush was carried into each school. Rusted grain was also shown the pupils. A National Rust Busters Club medal and the Certificate of Award were shown. An appropriate explanation was made in each rural school. Live specimens of common barberry were given to each pupil in the rural school. This latter point is one of value, and it is an excellent practice.

The town grade schools were visited under authority of the proper official. The visit is more successful when it carries the approval of the superior officers. The Belvidere grade schools were visited with the approval of Mrs. Harvey, the assistant superintendent of city schools. In the smaller towns the contact was made direct with the principal of the grade school. Practically the same material was presented to the town grade schools as to the rural schools.

A talk concerning barberry eradication was given each general assembly of the four high schools in the county. The visiting agent doubts if this is of as great value as a practice of visiting classes of the high schools. It would probably be better to give pupils in Botany, General Science, Vocational Agriculture, and Biology a more thorough lesson. An idea in mind for future work is to use the film strip lecture for such classes as are listed above. A common barberry was shown and the identification explained in each high school visited. Certain illustrative materials were given the pupils in each school.

One boy scout meeting was held in Boone County. All other informational work was carried on strictly in the schools. No illustrated lectures were given. The common barberry specimen and crayon illustrations on the school blackboards were resorted to in order to impress on the pupils the distinguishing characteristics of the bush.

Every common barberry report of every school in the county is to be turned in to Mr. F. C. Keeler, Boone County Superintendent of Schools.

The fear of not being able to find common barberry in Boone County was very foolish. Two pupils to date (9-25-31) have reported properties where common barberry bushes are located. Common barberry bushes were found on 8 properties indicated by the old Form L slips. The agent, while visiting schools and checking the Form L slips, located 5 more original properties.

The informational work in Boone County, Illinois, has been a success - based on results, it has proven economical.

No comment would be complete without mentioning the hospitality of the good people of Boone County. Mr. Foley, the farm advisor aided by speaking a good word for barberry eradication. The rural school teachers were all friendly. Many of the Form L slips gave the attitude of the owners as "questionable." In every instance the attitude of the individual met was found to be satisfactory. The Belvidere newspaper carried notices of the activities being carried on in the county. Apparently these were read by many people in the county. It has been a pleasure to work with the people of Boone County. (Lester R. Davis, Sept. 25, 1931.)

The above discussion represents Mr. Davis' field notes as they were mailed to Mr. Bills following the completion of intensive school work in Boone County. These notes accompanied the daily and summary school forms.

EASTERN REGION

Ohio - 8 East Broad St., Columbus - Harry Atwood

Form letters and U. S. Circular NO. 356 have been sent to 10,955 rural box holders in Champaign, Logan, Shelby, and Auglaize Counties this summer. These letters were sent out at the time survey work started in the territory served by the rural routes.

Barberry demonstrations were held at the Shelby County Fair in Sidney, September 15 to 18 and at the Auglaize County Fair at Wapakoneta, September 22 to 25. Several thousand people viewed the displays and a number of worth while leads were received.

At the Auglaize County Fair a farm organization had their booth decorated with clusters of bright red berries. They were much chagrined when they learned that the berries were from common barberry bushes. This led to the discovery of quite a large area of common barberry in the eastern part of Auglaize County.

The County Extension Agent of Auglaize County is planning to use our films, "Rust" and "Banishing the Barberry" in each of his township meetings during the month of October. Another Extension agent used the films in this manner recently.

While scouting for barberries near Sidney in Shelby County, one of our agents found common barberry planted in the yard. The farmer had picked berries from the bushes in the fall of 1930 and had planted them all around the edge of his yard. He was anticipating a fine hedge on his property.

Survey in Shelby County is being rapidly completed. Two squads of four men each are now stationed at Sidney where survey is being conducted. Several areas of escaped barberry bushes have been found in this vicinity. Many barberries are now being destroyed along the steep slopes of the Miami River at this point.

One squad of four men is conducting city and rural survey of Auglaize County, out of St. Marys.

The colleges and universities are calling the barberry men back to their studies once again. After September 30, four of our present force will be available for late fall survey.

The earthquake in Ohio on September 20 did its greatest damage in the territory now being surveyed. However, the agents report that the barberries are just as difficult to dig now as they were before. (Sept. 25)

Indiana - Purdue Experiment Station Annex, West Lafayette - W. E. Leer

Survey has been started in an area of escaped barberries south of Loogootee in Martin and Daviess Counties. The area was first surveyed in 1924, when 26 bushes and 20 seedlings were destroyed. In 1925, seven additional bushes were destroyed. Due to the presence of rust in the community this year, it was deemed advisable to work the area at this time.

It is planned to investigate, during the fall, all of the leads on barberry locations which are on hand at the present time. (Sept. 22)

Illinois - Post Office Building, Urbana - Robert W. Bills

Six reports of barberry bushes have come from school children since the beginning of the school year. Two of these came as a result of the intensive school campaign conducted in Boone County by Mr. Davis, and two came from school boys in Stephenson County and Will County as an aftermath of the work done last year when the teachers were addressed and lesson material distributed at the fall institutes. The big report came from

Woodford County on September 5, the first week of school after the teachers had been given lesson material at their county institute. Irvin Guth, an alumnus of the rural school, saw the literature and poster at the school and at once set out to find some barberry. He wrote as follows: "I have heard in the last week about the fight against common barberry. I was interested in trying to find a stalk, so I began to hunt. Finally, I discovered a stalk on a farm rented by Henry Meisner, Jr., Metamora, Ill. I am sending a branch of the stalk which I thought was the common barberry. If you have any publications on barberry stalks, I would be glad if you would send me them." He found seven bushes. One of them was about 16 feet high and had spread out over an area of about 25 feet in diameter. The bush is heavily rusted. A demonstration is being planned for the rural and high school children of the neighborhood, at which time the bushes will be destroyed.

One report came from Rock Island County where a little girl found barberry growing on her father's farm where bushes were destroyed in 1923.

Lake County was completed on September 16, and the squad moved to St. Charles to join the Kane County squad. During the year, 3095 bushes, 9 sprouts, and 117 seedlings were destroyed in the county on 174 properties. 4650 pounds of salt were used on 26 of the properties where there was no danger of injuring other shrubs, but on the other 148 properties, the bushes were dug.

Survey work is being completed in DuPage County by two men working out of Naperville. Ogle County will be completed about October 15. A resurvey of the wild area near LaSalle along the Illinois River is in progress.

Mr. Davis completed the intensive school campaign in Boone County on September 24, after making a resurvey of the county. He spoke before every rural school, village and city, grade school, parochial school, and high school. Every school pupil in the county was given an explanation of the common barberry and the black stem rust and was shown a specimen bush. Two authentic reports of bushes have been turned in by way of the County Superintendent of Schools. Three bushes were growing on one place and one on the other. It is likely that other reports will come in later.
(Sept. 25)

Michigan - Botany Building, Michigan State College, East Lansing - F. B. Powers

The personnel in the field was reduced September 19 to six men, a squad of five still carrying on survey and eradication and one making contacts with schools. Work during the past week has been made difficult due to heavy rains.

As a result of a talk to a 4-H Club camp this summer, a little girl reported a barberry location from which the barberry agents removed 22 large planted and 14 medium-size escaped bushes. (Sept. 25)

Wisconsin - State Capitol Annex, Madison - Vern O. Taylor

Saturday, September 12, marked the end of the field season for all appointed agents with the exception of Harold Cate who continued the work as leader of a squad of local labor in Iowa County.

The laborers, who had been driving to work in the vicinity of Sauk City reported to Mr. Cate on the morning of September 12 when his crew of agents returned to State headquarters. The laborers have been furnishing their own transportation to and from work all season. This enabled the squad leaders to headquarter at the most convenient place and shift their headquarters with no loss of time. The men working as laborers lived in Black Earth, and territory as far as 15 miles on each side was worked in this manner. The squad leaders report that at no time did they have to wait for the men to appear for work.

The work in Wisconsin this summer resulted in the eradication of 9,536 bushes and 20,967 seedlings. These figures do not include the bushes destroyed during the first two weeks in September.

A letter was sent to the schools of Dodge County as a follow up on the intensive educational work carried on during April and May. The teacher was requested to refresh the memories of the pupils on identifying characteristics of barberry and to read a letter prepared for the Rust Buster Club members. A picture of the medal was also included with a hearty invitation for each child to win the first medal. (Sept. 23)

WESTERN REGIONMinnesota - University Farm, St. Paul - Leonard W. Melander

On September 16 our field crew was reduced from 18 to 8 men to continue until the freeze up.

The survey of Dakota County will be completed in about two weeks, weather permitting. The field men then will go into Rice County and work there until November 15. Early in October our plan is to use day labor in the Red Wing area of escaped bushes. The school campaign in that area resulted in the reporting of a large number of barberries that must be treated this year. (Sept. 22)

Iowa - Morrill Hall, Iowa State College, Ames - D. R. Shephard

With the active field survey work practically completed for this fall, the Iowa office is making plans for a fall and winter informational program. Special emphasis will be placed on the intensive informational work with the rural and city schools in two eastern Iowa counties. We hope that this type of work can be done as effectively in the fall as it has been in the spring.

We plan to follow up the work of last spring in Linn County with the rural schools by sending a letter to the president of each of the 117 organized clubs. Through this letter we expect to again get the rust busters to do some thinking in terms of barberry eradication.

A report of a barberry location was recently received from one of the Linn County rust busters. The Leader had an occasion to look up the lead this week and incidentally talked to the boy's father. The father stated that the boy had walked him over most of the community in search of a bush and had also visited many neighbors in an effort to become a medal winner. The bush that was finally found was about 10 feet tall and was bearing fruit. Small grain grown in the adjacent fields had been heavily rusted during the past years. This report is number 39 for the Linn County rust busters.

John Dabinett, another of the Linn County boys, has recently written this office telling of his visit to the Barberry Eradication Office at Washington, D. C. this summer. He enclosed a letter that he had received from Mr. Meier relative to his visit. The postscript of this letter was: "Be sure to return my letter from the National President."

Field agent Hinde who recently resigned from the work found a large bush while visiting friends at Farley, Iowa. The bush was some 10 feet high and weighted down with more than a bushel of mature berries. Hinde reports that on appointment or off he can't help but see barberries. We are of the opinion that Hinde deserves recognition as a rust buster.

Two fairs have been scheduled for the next two weeks: the large county fair at Spencer and the Dairy Cattle Congress at Waterloo. Barberry eradication demonstrations were recently held at a large gathering of farmers at Glidden and at the Greene County Fair at Jefferson.

Four field agents are carrying on the late fall survey in Woodbury County. We feel fortunate in having this squad of men, all of whom have had two or more years of experience. R. G. Brown is assisting the Leader with the informational activities. (Sept. 19)

District No. 3 - Agricultural College, Fort Collins, Colo. - E. A. Lungren

Field activities for this season were dispensed with on September 15 at which time preparations were made for an intensive informational campaign to be conducted in the rural and high schools in several counties in the District.

Colorado - The intensive informational campaign will be conducted in the following counties in Colorado, Boulder, Weld, Larimer and Morgan. Arrangements have been made for presenting barberry eradication to each school in these counties with the idea of forming rust buster clubs in each community. The work will first start on October 1 in Weld and Larimer Counties and will continue as planned throughout the fall and winter in all other counties mentioned.

Western Nebraska - Our informational work in western Nebraska will be conducted for the most part in the Smith-Hughes schools, teacher training schools and the Future Farmers of America organizations. Lantern slide series have been prepared for our demonstration. The presentation will take some 30 or 40 minutes. Materials and lesson plans for a more intensive study will be taken up with the teacher.

Wyoming - Similar plans to those in Colorado and western Nebraska will be carried out in Wyoming. We plan to cover Laramie, Platte, and Goshen Counties. (Oct. 1)